Looking back on my recent experiences as a graduate student in the history department at Monmouth University from the perspective of someone who has completed their MA and is at present a first-year doctoral student, I contend that my own period of rigorous combat (although armed with historical monographs, pens and highlighters, and an HP notebook, rather than fragmentation grenades, .30 caliber ammunition, and an infantryman’s rifle) was an indispensable time of training and seasoning where—like the US Fifth Army that faced off against the armed might of the Wermacht in the deserts of North Africa—I too developed the additional income and an expanded professional paradigm, a mentor, and a role model—was introduced by my history department at Monmouth in May 2004, I moved onto another academic front, where I am pursuing another degree within a new theater of education. Where I am pursuing another degree within a new theater of education.

When I entered the graduate program at Monmouth in May 2004, I had just graduated with a BA from Montclair State University, and was looking for nothing more than some additional income and an expanded knowledge of American history that I could apply as a public school teacher. How quickly that would change. Under the guidance and tutelage of an inspiring and dedicated faculty—especially Professor Chris DeRosa who continued to be a professional paradigm, a mentor, and a role model—I was introduced to a wonderfully vibrant world of war, however, I have, instead, moved onto another academic front, where I am pursuing another degree within a new theater of education.

Best of luck to all of the graduate students reading this. Enjoy your time at Monmouth while you can! The experiences you have and relationships you form here will benefit you for years to come, both professionally and personally.
And Now for Something Completely Different: Monmouth Students Present Papers at UK Conference

Dateline - Leeds, UK
July 2007

Two Monmouth graduate history students, David Bedad and Jeffrey Salzberger, along with one graduate communications student, Rya Butterfield (MA – 2007), traveled to the United Kingdom this summer to present papers at conference. Their destination was Leeds, England, a thriving urban center in the Yorkshire region of the island.

Called Things That Move, the conference took place at Leeds Metropolitan University’s, Center for Tourism and Cultural Change, which calls a Victorian era school building its headquarters. Bedad and Salzberger, both rookies to presentation outside of the Monmouth University classroom, were nervous about their respective debut performances, but were well prepared, owing a familiarity for the proceedings to the conference simulations they have attempted in their graduate school classes. Salzberger presented his paper, “So... This is Vacation?: An Activist History of Fire Island, New York,” a short work which establishes protest movements in the legendary, Long Island vacation community as a cultural totem, while Bedad led a forum on his piece, Cruising Through History, about the history of, and the problems that have developed within, the cruise industry. Butterfield’s work was a detailed analysis of tourism in New Orleans after hurricane Katrina.

Both presentations were very well attended, and met with praise from the multi-disciplinary audiences. The Center for Tourism and Cultural Change is a program at Leeds Metropolitan University that emphasizes the sociological, cultural, geographic, philosophical and architectural aspects of tourism, but surprisingly little history is represented. As a result, much of the feedback that Bedad and Salzberger received was from outside their field. Salzberger was quoted as saying that he “got some very unique and helpful advice from a German philosophy student, a Swiss anthropologist, and a Danish architect,” which provided him with “valuable perspective.” Following the conference, Salzberger said that some of the comments from his peers and questions he entertained from his academic colleagues “helped him to narrow his thesis topic.”

Salzberger’s paper for the Leeds event was a small, edited piece of a larger thesis that he tailored to fit the conference proceedings. Bedad’s piece stemmed from a paper he had written for a class called Histories of Tourism, taught by Dr. Karen Schmelzkopf here at Monmouth. The same class that inspired the work of both Butterfield and Salzberger. Bedad spoke of the camaraderie that comes from a trip like this, and was happy for the support he received from the Monmouth community overall, including his professors and fellow students.

When they were not attending other presentations over the course of the week long conference, the three Monmouth representatives were living it up in lovely Leeds, sampling the local cuisine and culture, which included beautiful Victorian architecture. On the first day, all were even introduced to the Lord Mayor of the city, who, while wearing a rather large ceremonial gold decoration draped over his shoulders, proceeded to tell the Americans, “I have the best bling on the block.”

The consensus from the Monmouth conference is that the trip over the Atlantic was a worthwhile experience. It provided them with some academic “bling” of their own.

Association of Graduate Students of History

Meetings are held on specified Wednesday at 5 pm in the cafeteria … near the coffee shop. See Kathleen O’Connor for more info.

In the Field and on the Move

Meredith Miller, currently a graduate student in history at Monmouth University and a history teacher at Long Branch High School, was named Teacher of the Year in 2007. As part of her award, Miller has decided to launch a project in the form of a veterans’ memorial, honoring anyone involved, in any capacity, with Long Branch public schools who has served, or is currently serving, in the United States armed forces. (Continued on page 3)
Meredith Miller—Continued from page 2)

Miller sees the memorial as a chance to make a difference, one of the reasons she got into teaching in the first place. By 2011, the memorial will be constructed outside the new high school in Long Branch, and will consist of pavers and a reflecting pool. Its purpose, according to Miller, also the Veterans’ Memorial Committee Chairwoman, will be to remember and honor those who have served, and also, thanks to its interactive aspects, to educate all those who visit, including Miller’s numerous history students both past and present. The memorial will not only be a place for learning, but for meeting and quiet reflection, thereby serving the purpose as a symbol of community/school district relations.

Miller always wants to touch her students’ hearts, and this project is yet another way to do so. This is a wonderful achievement brought to us by Meredith Miller, a dedicated high school history teacher and alumna of Monmouth University, who always wants to touch her students’ hearts, and this project is yet another way to do so. This is a wonderful achievement brought to us by Meredith Miller, a dedicated high school history teacher and Monmouth University graduate student, who has always been at the forefront of education and its many changing techniques.

In the Field and on the Move Brings you a new section called: Seen About Town

During this anonymous reporter’s roving about campus he has seen many things: From a hawk eating its prey outside Howard Hall, to a gentleman dressed as, and bearing a remarkable resemblance to, Thomas Jefferson. Nothing gets a warmer response however, than to a gentleman dressed as, and bearing a remarkable resemblance to, Thomas Jefferson. Nothing gets a warmer response however, than

Jennifer Giannone (pictured on p. 4) is also teaching, Jennifer Giannone (pictured on p. 4) is also teaching, as well as Kathy Shapiro, who has a feature bio in the last issue of

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Look for more student and alumni highlights coming in the next Sextant! Interviews are going on now. If you have some news to share, drop us a line at 917-699-8008.

“Lipper”: Rick Pachman Discusses his Internship

By Rick Pachman

Last winter, I went into the History and Anthropology Department Office on a mission: I wanted a history-related internship. I walked up to our very own Sandy Villa and asked her if she knew of any that I could apply for. She then pointed me in the direction of a bulletin board in the hallway that I had somehow ignored, which was plastered with internship opportunities, graduate school information, and other “fun stuff.” She arbitrarily (it seemed so at least) suggested the Lipper Internship at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City because other Monmouth students had interned there and had a good time. After perusing the application and the internship description, I was hooked. I wanted to be a Lipper!

Essentially, the internship has two components. The first is a 10-day training session at the museum in NYC. Perhaps the best part of this is the fact that they put you up in a hotel for the entire time. While it was a very intense 10 days, it was extremely enjoyable and informative. There were 16 Lipper Interns for the Fall 2007 semester, and as different as many of us were, we all had a similar passion: to support the museum’s mission of Holocaust education. During the 10-days, we heard testimony from 3 Holocaust survivors and 1 Rwandan Genocide survivor, learned how to teach from artifacts, and lead tours in the museum. The second part of the internship focuses on the chief purpose of the Lipper program: offering middle and high school students an opportunity to learn about the Holocaust and get a tour of the Museum of Jewish Heritage. A pair of interns is assigned 3 public schools in the state where they go to school (NJ, PA, NY, and MA) and they do three visits with each school. The first, or pre-visit, is a slide presentation about the museum and its mission. The second visit is a guided tour of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and the third, or post-visit, is done to have the students reflect on their museum tour and what can (or should) be done about current atrocities around the world.

Rick Pachman prepares for a formal event related to his Lipper internship.

I am already halfway through my time as a “Lipper” (as we are affectionately known around the museum) and I have found it to be a very rewarding experience. I would recommend this internship to any undergraduate or graduate student if they are interested in pursuing careers in education, genocide or Holocaust studies, or in a museum.
A Scholar at Dawn
(Continued from Page 1)

historical argument, analysis, and writing that I never knew existed. This not only compelled me to elevate my academic and professional goals, but to take the next step towards fulfilling them: the PhD. Today I am actively pursuing that objective at Temple University in Philadelphia thanks to this inspiration and academic training.

As stated earlier, my time at Monmouth was a period of intellectual development and experience that proved indispensable to the fulfillment of my life’s aspirations. Like the American Army in North Africa in November 1942, I came in untested, inexperienced, and unsure of what I could accomplish. When I graduated a few years later, I had emerged with the necessary tools for taking on the next challenge. I was a scholar at dawn. Although the next chapter in my academic development has only just begun, and the fulfillment of my doctoral requirements is several years away, none of it would have been possible were it not for the exceptional quality of the history department’s graduate program, the excellence of its faculty, and the constructive, supportive collegiality of my fellow graduate students.

The War - A Ken Burns’ film -
In Ken Burns’ latest epicumentary, The War, he uses his skill as a master filmmaker to bring WWII home to all of us. It should be noted that this project also included Lynn Novick in collaboration with Burns.

Many viewers have already seen Burns’ Civil War, and say that The War is just as heart breaking, as well as visually stimulating. Unlike its predecessor however, The War contains moving images which add to the overall story, giving it a different kind of impact.

The participants and combatants, brought to you at times in full color and in motion, move the viewer very close to this horrific piece of history. This intimacy is what pushes The War over the top as one of the year’s best films.

The story is told through the accounts of several men and women in four American towns, and both the war in the Pacific and Atlantic are included. Conspicuously absent however, is the Latino population in Burns’ representation.

Tracked with realistic sound effects to which the greatest attention was paid, The War will move and terrify the viewer, as well as offer insight into this global cataclysm.

Box Scores:
Our section on the recently defended thesis
- May 7, 2007: Daniel Radel’s, Those Were Our Fish! New Jersey Recreational Fisheries Through the 200 Mile Limit and Beyond; A History.
- November, 2008: Kathleen O’Connor takes the first set of orally administered comprehensive exams in departmental history!

Pictured above are five of the graduate inductees into Phi Alpha Theta on December 7, 2007. In a boisterous ceremony, possibly the largest to date, these fine men and women were given the high honors that come along with superb performance in the field of history.

Graduate Students Inducted into Phi Alpha Theta, May 4, 2007
From L to R: Jennifer T. Giannone, Patricia J. Kurz, Lawrence Wallis and Lloyd-Paul White receive their Phi Alpha Theta Awards.

The Association of Graduate Students of History sponsors regular eCampus discussions. Don’t forget to join one. Make yourself heard!

Seen Anything Good Lately? Historical Films of Note

The War -
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Charlie Wilson’s War
A Mike Nichols’ Film
In this wonderfully crafted bio-pic, the audience is treated to the story of free-wheeling, Democratic Texas Congressman, Charlie Wilson (Tom Hanks), and more specifically, the tale of his covert dealings in Afghanistan during the ’80s, where he helped supply the Mujahideen with supplies and weapons to fight the Soviets. Second only to the main plot, as described above, is the subplot, which tackles Wilson’s complex relationships with both CIA spook Gust Avrakotos (Philip Seymour Hoffman) and Joanne Herring (Julia Roberts), Houston businesswoman, socialite, and overall Cold Warrior. This film, and the acting, are top notch.

This was to be expected however, with the movie being helmed by veteran director Mike Nichols (The Graduate and many others), and written by Aaron Sorkin (The American President and The West Wing) who has an obvious knack for the political stuff. It was based in its entirety on an equally entertaining and informative book by George Crile of the same title.

This flick comes highly recommended, and so does the book!